REVELATION 7: THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000 AND THE MULTITUDE FROM THE TRIBULATION

"Revelation 7: The Mystery of the 144,000 and the Tribulation Crowd" is a journey into the heart of apocalyptic symbolism, an invitation to explore the profound dimensions of salvation and spiritual transformation. The essay unfolds through the apparent duality between the 144,000 sealed – emblem of a spiritual elite destined for inner awakening and divine protection – and the great crowd, embracing every nation, tribe and tongue, symbol of universal and inclusive redemption. Through the lens of the doctrine of Revival, negative theology and the dialectic between power and progress, the exegetical path guides us from crisis and tribulation to purification and reunification, inviting us to overcome the dualism between selection and universality. The essay reveals how the fire of tribulation can turn into a powerful catalyst for growth and liberation, transforming pain into an opportunity to be reborn and reconnect with the divine.In summary, this spiritual map not only sheds light on the mystery of the apocalyptic verses, but also offers a contemporary key to interpreting the human journey: from oppression to authentic liberation, from election to universal transfiguration. An invitation to rediscover the inner light and to embrace a path of progress that unites the individual and the community in a single, vibrant symphony of hope and transformation.

Between Spiritual Elites and Universal Rebirth: A Journey Through Awakening, Apophatic Theology, and the Dialectic of Power

Giuseppe Gugliotta
Revelation 7:
The Mystery of the 144,000
and the Multitude
from the Tribulation
Between Spiritual Elites
and Universal Rebirth:
A Journey Through Awakening,
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An epic illustration depicting the vision of Revelation 7, with the 144,000 elect in white robes, illuminated by divine light, arranged in perfect order on a sacred mountain. In the background, an immense multitude of people of all nations and languages, with their arms raised in adoration, bathed in a celestial golden light. The sky is open with angels blowing trumpets and a throne of dazzling light in the center. Mystical atmosphere with ethereal clouds and beams of divine light.

The image represents a scene of strong visual and symbolic impact, inspired by chapter 7 of the Apocalypse, a biblical text rich in eschatological meanings. It is an artistic representation that combines iconographic and theological elements to illustrate the theme of the 144,000 elect and the great crowd of tribulation.

Image description

- Open sky and divine light: In the center dominates an intense light that descends from the sky, a symbol of the divine presence. The light expands downwards, creating a sense of connection between heaven and earth.

- Angels and doves: The winged figures, probably angels or doves, represent divine purity and peace. They are harmoniously distributed, emphasizing the sacredness of the scene.

- Multitude of human figures: In the foreground, a crowd dressed in white looks towards the light. These individuals represent the "144,000" mentioned in Revelation and the saints who have survived the tribulation.

- Mountains and Ethereal Landscape: The background shows mountains bathed in a celestial atmosphere, suggesting a sacred place or spiritual realm.

Symbolic analysis

1. The 144,000 elected: According to Revelation 7, the 144,000 are those who have been "sealed" by God to be protected during the tribulation. Their number is symbolic and represents the completeness of God's people.

2. The great crowd: The multitude dressed in white could represent those who have passed through tribulation and emerge victorious because of their faith. White clothes symbolize purity and redemption.

3. The divine light: The central light is the fulcrum of the composition, a symbol of the glory and presence of God who welcomes the faithful into His kingdom.

4. Angels: Winged beings reinforce the idea of divine intervention and heavenly worship.

The image captures the essence of the apocalyptic message: hope, redemption and the triumph of good over evil. The visual composition conveys a sense of majesty and transcendence, evoking emotions of reverence and wonder. It is a representation that invites reflection on faith, on the destiny of humanity and on the promise of divine salvation.

In summary, the work powerfully visualizes the mystery of the 144,000 elect and the great crowd overcoming the tribulation, central themes of chapter 7 of the Apocalypse.

The symbols of the image will connect to the text of the essay "Revelation 7: The Mystery of the 144,000 and the Tribulation Crowd" through a series of iconographic and thematic elements that reflect the key concepts present in chapter 7 of the Apocalypse. Here are some ways in which these symbols will intertwine with the content of the essay:

Symbolic Links

- The 144,000 elected: In the essay, the number 144,000 is interpreted as a symbol of completeness and divine protection. The image, featuring a crowd dressed in white, reflects this idea of election and purity, suggesting that these individuals were sealed and saved by God during times of trial.

- The Great Crowd: The sage will also discuss the great crowd emerging from tribulation, described as those who have overcome adversity because of their faith. The image, showing a multitude looking towards the divine light, symbolizes the victory of believers and their redemption, in line with the themes covered in the essay.

- The divine light: The light that descends from heaven into the image represents God's presence and grace. This visual element is in tune with the idea in the essay that the elect and the crowd are under divine protection and guidance, enlightened by His truth.

- Angels and celestial figures: The presence of angels in the image refers to the concept of divine intercession and protection, a central theme in the essay. Angels are often considered messengers from God, and their depiction reinforces the idea of hope and assistance during difficult times.

Common themes

- Hope and Redemption: Both the essay and the image will convey a message of hope for those facing trials. The visualization of the light and the victorious crowd serves to emphasize the promise of salvation, a recurring theme in the text.

- Tribulation and Victory: The essay will explore the concept of tribulation as part of the journey of faith. The image visually illustrates this transition from suffering to glory, showing how believers emerge triumphant.

In summary, the symbols present in the image not only reflect the themes covered in the essay but visually amplify them, creating a deep link between art and sacred text. This connection helps to better understand the apocalyptic message of hope, divine protection, and redemption for those who persevere in the faith.

The differences between the symbols in the image and those described in the text of the essay "Revelation 7: The Mystery of the 144,000 and the Tribulation Crowd" can be analyzed under several aspects, particularly with regard to their interpretation, representation and meaning.

Differences in symbols

- Representation of the 144,000:

  - Image: In the image, the 144,000 elected are represented as a crowd dressed in white, a symbol of purity and redemption. This visual representation tends to emphasize the idea of unity and victory.

  - Text: The text of Revelation specifies that the 144,000 are sealed by God, with a particular reference to the twelve tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:4-8). Here, the number is seen as symbolic, representing the entire people of God rather than a literal group.

- The great crowd:

  - Image: The great crowd is shown in worship, facing the divine light, suggesting a collective victory and shared joy.

  - Text: In the essay, the great crowd is identified as those who "came out of the great tribulation" and washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). This involves a process of purification through suffering, something that may not be immediately apparent in the visual image.

- Symbolism of divine light:

- Image: The light descending from the sky is a central element of the image, symbolizing God's presence and hope.

- Text: Although divine light is present in the text as a symbol of God's glory, the context of judgment and tribulation is more pronounced. The text emphasizes that divine protection does not exclude suffering, but offers salvation in the midst of judgment.

Different interpretations

- Number symbolism:

- Image: The image may suggest a more literal reading of the number 144,000 as a specific group of the elect.

- Text: In contrast, the sage and contemporary biblical interpretations tend to see this number as symbolic, representing the entirety of God's people rather than a fixed figure.

- Angels and celestial figures:

- Image: Angels are depicted as benevolent figures surrounding the scene.

- Text: In the context of the sage, angels not only symbolize protection but also the messengers of divine judgment. Their presence is linked to the idea of intercession during times of crisis.

In summary, while the image offers an optimistic and celebratory view of the salvation and victory of believers, the text of Revelation provides a more complex context that includes elements of judgment, tribulation, and purification. These differences highlight how symbols can be interpreted in different ways depending on the medium used—visual or textual—and the theological nuances associated with each.

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Revelation 7: The Mystery of the 144,000 and the Tribulation Crowd

Between spiritual elite and universal rebirth: a journey through awakening, apophatic theology and the dialectic of power

"Revelation 7: The Mystery of the 144,000 and the Tribulation Crowd" is a journey into the heart of apocalyptic symbolism, an invitation to explore the profound dimensions of salvation and spiritual transformation. The essay unfolds through the apparent duality between the 144,000 sealed – emblem of a spiritual elite destined for inner awakening and divine protection – and the great crowd, embracing every nation, tribe and tongue, symbol of universal and inclusive redemption.

Through the lens of the doctrine of Revival, negative theology and the dialectic between power and progress, the exegetical path guides us from crisis and tribulation to purification and reunification, inviting us to overcome the dualism between selection and universality. The essay reveals how the fire of tribulation can turn into a powerful catalyst for growth and liberation, transforming pain into an opportunity to be reborn and reconnect with the divine.

In summary, this spiritual map not only sheds light on the mystery of the apocalyptic verses, but also offers a contemporary key to interpreting the human journey: from oppression to authentic liberation, from election to universal transfiguration. An invitation to rediscover the inner light and to embrace a path of progress that unites the individual and the community in a single, vibrant symphony of hope and transformation.

Description and Analysis of the Image in Reference to Revelation 7

The image depicts a scene of great visual and spiritual impact: in the center, a luminous figure – enveloped in a golden aura, which we can interpret as a divine representation or of the glorified Christ – seems to stand in a cosmic space, in a golden aura surrounded by numerous concentric circles of people in white or gold robes, arranged in a spiral around him. The whole scenario is imbued with golden light and cosmic references, with open skies, visible planets and futuristic or celestial architecture in the background. The sky is furrowed by clouds full of light and planets or celestial spheres, while in the background you can see buildings and landscapes that evoke a transcendent realm.

The central figure and the symbol of the Throne

In Revelation 7, after the description of the seal placed on the 144,000, the vision of the "great crowd that no one could number" (Rev 7:9) opens, in verses 9-10, a great gathering of the saved before the throne of God and the Lamb is described. The image could allude to this central presence, which represents the divine or the glorified Christ, around whom the faithful revolve, the figure seems to recall the divine presence or the glorified Christ above the crowd.

The golden light and concentric circles underline the idea of a mystical centrality, a spiritual fulcrum around which humanity (or the elect) gather in veneration. The golden aura and elevated position recall the image of the Lamb who stands in the midst of the throne (Rev 7:17) and the glory of God that envelops those who are redeemed.

The circles of people in white robes

Revelation 7,9 describes an immense multitude "of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wrapped in white robes." In the image, the long white robes of the characters suggest purity, redemption and the condition of those who "washed their garments and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:14).

The arrangement in concentric circles emphasizes the universality and totality of the crowd, which extends to the horizon, highlighting the idea of inclusiveness and universal communion described in the biblical text.

Light and golden symbolism

The abundance of golden light refers to divine glory, perfection and the concept of eternity. In traditional Christian iconography, gold is the color of transcendence and the kingdom of God. The luminous center can be interpreted as the throne of God or the place from which the divine presence emanates.

In Revelation 7, the passage from tribulation to bliss is accompanied by a vision of consolation: "They will hunger no more, neither thirst anymore [...] and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev 7:16-17). The golden light that envelops the scene suggests precisely this promise of protection and consolation.

Appeal to the 144,000 and the "tribulation crowd"

The image, while not explicitly distinguishing between the 144,000 and the great crowd, makes evident the multitude of believers participating in a single cosmic celebration. The text of Revelation 7 first presents the 144,000 sealed (Rev 7:1-8) – considered a spiritual elite or a symbol of the completeness of the people of God – and then the great crowd (Rev 7:9-17), which represents the universality of salvation.

The spiral of people can suggest the concept of a progressive "expansion" of redemption, from the group of the sealed to all humanity recognizing and acclaiming divine glory.

Apophatic elements and the dialectic of power

In the context of apophatic theology, the central figure shrouded in light and mystery highlights how the divine cannot be fully understood or defined with human categories. The image itself, although grandiose, leaves room for a sense of ineffability.

On the level of the dialectic of power, references to futuristic architectural structures and cosmic skies suggest the tension between the idea of human power (technological or political) and the divine power that transcends and reunifies. In fact, Revelation shows the opposition between earthly powers and the ultimate sovereignty of God.

Message of hope and transformation

The composition as a whole conveys a strong sense of hope, where the multitude is gathered in an act of praise and veneration. The image evokes the perspective of Revelation 7 in which tribulation, instead of being an end in itself, becomes a passage towards purification and full communion with the divine.

The warm hues, the intense light and the spaciousness of the scene communicate the idea that, despite the crises and trials, there is a prospect of universal rebirth and union.

The image vividly evokes the key themes of Revelation 7: the unity between the "spiritual elite" of the 144,000 and the "great crowd" that represents the universality of salvation, the mystery of the divine surrounded by the multitude in white robes, and the prospect of hope and rebirth after tribulation. In this way, the illustration becomes a symbolic window into a theological message that combines election and inclusiveness, suffering and glory, revealing how the (apocalyptic) end can actually be transformed into a principle of spiritual transformation and renewal.

The image and text of Revelation 7 are intertwined in a powerful call to hope and transformation. On the one hand, the vision of a spiritual elite (the 144,000) pushes us to consider the importance of a deep inner awakening; on the other, the "immense crowd" reminds us that salvation and redemption embrace the whole of humanity. Together, they invite us to overcome all dualism, to see in tribulation not an end, but a beginning of universal renewal and rebirth.

Introduction

In the apocalyptic turmoil described in the Book of Revelation, the seventh chapter emerges as a pause suspended between divine judgments, a moment of respite that lies between the sixth and eighth seals. In this interval, the text offers us a twofold and fascinating vision: on the one hand, the 144,000 sealed, chosen from among the tribes of Israel, and on the other, a great crowd gathered from every nation. This dichotomy is not accidental, but represents an invitation to decipher symbols full of meaning, capable of transcending mere numerical categories to reveal profound spiritual truths.

The symbolism of the 144,000 and the great crowd is intimately intertwined with the path of spiritual awakening. The 144,000, in fact, are not just a number, but the emblem of a divine election: an exclusive protection that anticipates the culmination of tribulations and invites introspection, inner liberation and the search for an authentic rebirth. At the same time, the presence of the universal multitude expresses the idea of an inclusive salvation, accessible to everyone, regardless of origin or condition, thus evoking a profound message of unity and communion in the human experience.

This tension between exclusivity and universality finds further richness in interpretation through negative theology, which, by denying the fixed definitions and limitations of human language, opens the door to a mystery that transcends every dichotomy. In this context, the dialectic between the spiritual elite – represented by the 144,000 – and the universalism of the great crowd becomes the fertile ground for a reflection on power and progress. It is not, in fact, a power understood as domination or hierarchy, but as a

transformative force that pushes the individual towards inner liberation and authentic advancement, capable of embracing and overcoming the barriers of the conventional.

Ultimately, Revelation 7 is configured as an invitation to awakening, a path that leads us from exclusive selection to universal communion, revealing how true salvation lies in the fusion of these apparently opposite dimensions. Divine protection, in fact, is not limited to a small group, but expands through the power of inner awakening and spiritual progress, illuminating the text and our understanding of the divine mystery.

A mystical illustration depicting two distinct groups of people in an apocalyptic scene inspired by Revelation 7. In the foreground, 144,000 individuals dressed in white with luminous markings on their foreheads, arranged in orderly rows, wrapped in a golden aura, a symbol of their divine election. Behind them, a great crowd of people from every nation, dressed in white, with their hands raised in adoration, bathed in a heavenly light. The sky above them is divided between stormy darkness and a divine light radiant from above. In the background, the sacrificial lamb on a throne of light and seven seals floating in the air. The atmosphere is solemn, full of spiritual and mystical symbolism.

Revelation 7 presents two distinct groups of people: the 144,000 sealed by the tribes of Israel and a great crowd from every nation. The chapter fits between the sixth and eighth seals in the book of Revelation, offering a pause between judgments. This pause serves to highlight the protection and salvation of a chosen group before the climax of tribulations.

1. I 144,000: Election, Transfiguration, and the Riddle of the Chosen Minority (Revelation 7:1-8)

In the vibrant setting of Revelation 7, verses 1-8 lead us into a symbolic realm where God's choice manifests itself in the form of 144,000 sealed souls. These individuals, chosen and distinguished from the twelve tribes of Israel, bear the mark of an ineffable protection, destined to withstand the impending tribulations. Their seal is not only a sign of salvation, but an emblem of inner transformation and a call to a profound spiritual awakening.

Symbolic analysis of the number 144,000:

The number 144,000, obtained by multiplying 12 (symbol of perfection and completeness) by 12 tribes and further multiplied by 1,000 (which recalls the idea of vastness and fulfillment), is not accidental. This numerical datum is charged with meanings: on the one hand it represents the perfection and fulfillment of the divine will, on the other it emphasizes a marked distinction, a selection that highlights the invitation to spiritual election. It is as if the apocalyptic universe invites the reader to understand that, in the midst of chaos, there is a divine order that guides and protects a minority destined for the light.

Called and Chosen on the Path of Awakening:

On the path of awakening, a subtle distinction emerges between the "called" and the "elect." Everyone is invited to awaken, but only a few embark on the difficult path of inner transformation. The 144,000, in the apocalyptic vision, represent that spiritual elite that has been able to respond to the call with total commitment, marking the passage from mere existence to the experience of the divine. They embody the potential for radical transformation, where sealing becomes a metaphor for protection and consecration that transcends time and space.

The Esoteric Meaning of Election:

Deepening the symbolism, the choice of these individuals reveals itself as an esoteric path made up of separation, sacrifice and fulfillment. Sealing is not a sign of exclusion for its own sake, but the symbol of a profound purification that requires detachment from worldly conventions and the embrace of a higher destiny. In this sense, the election expresses the tension between the individuality of sacrifice and the universality of transformation, an invitation to renounce rigid schemes to discover the light that lies beyond the veil of appearance.

Exclusivity and Selection: A Hierarchical Danger and the Apophatic Overcoming:

Despite the temptation to interpret the choice of the 144,000 in a hierarchical key – a clear division between the "elected" and the rest – the apophatic perspective pushes us to overcome this reductive reading. Negative theology, in fact, teaches us that any attempt to fix and define the divine mystery in human terms risks impoverishing the richness of spiritual experience. Instead, the symbol of the divine seal invites a more fluid and open reflection, where the distinction is not a definitive barrier, but a necessary step towards the understanding that the inner light, while manifesting itself in different forms, is accessible to anyone who undertakes the path of awakening.

Thus, in these verses, Revelation 7 offers us not only an image of a chosen and protected minority, but also a profound metaphor of the inner journey: an invitation to transform, to sacrifice and, finally, to create an authentic connection with the divine, overcoming any limitation imposed by a rigid and hierarchical vision of salvation.

The four winds of the earth

1 After this, I saw four angels standing in the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that they would not blow upon the earth, nor upon the sea, nor upon any tree. (7,1)

An epic illustration depicting four angels in the four corners of the Earth, intent on holding back the four winds. The angels appear majestic, wrapped in luminous robes, with immense wings and solemn faces. The landscape below is motionless and surreal: the sea is as calm as a mirror, the land devoid of any movement and the trees motionless, frozen in a mystical silence. The sky is dramatic, with dark clouds that threaten storms but remain suspended, held back by the divine strength of the angels. The scene is illuminated by a celestial light that comes from above, creating an otherworldly atmosphere.

1. Angels at the Four Corners:

- The four angels are depicted as majestic and luminous figures, with extended wings and a solemn attitude. They are positioned symmetrically, indicating the "four corners of the earth", a symbol that suggests the totality of the world.

- The angels seem to be engaged in an action of control or containment, consistent with the task assigned to them in the biblical verse.

2. Cosmic Background:

- In the background there is a celestial representation with geometric and astral motifs, which recalls the sky and the ordered universe. This detail emphasizes the divine and transcendent character of the scene.

- The presence of a glowing globe in the center could symbolize the earth or the manifestation of divine power.

3. Natural Elements:

- The landscape below shows a rift in the earth, with a river flowing towards the horizon. This could represent the fragility of the earthly world in the face of divine power.

- The trees and mountains on the sides recall the idea of creation as a whole.

Symbolic analysis

- The Four Winds: In biblical tradition, the winds are often associated with powerful forces that can bring destruction or change. The fact that the angels are holding them indicates a temporary suspension of divine judgment, a moment of grace before apocalyptic events.

- The four corners of the earth: This expression symbolizes the universality of divine action, which embraces every part of the world.

- The central light: It could represent God Himself or His divine plan, a source of order in the midst of chaos.

Revelation 7:1 is part of a larger vision in which God protects His elect before the final judgment is triggered. Angels holding back the winds are a sign of God's sovereignty over chaos and destruction. The image captures this tension between divine power and the temporary mercy granted to humanity.

The image conveys a sense of majesty and cosmic order. It is a visual representation of the apocalyptic message: God controls the forces of nature and guides the fate of the world according to His perfect plan.

The angel from the rising sun

2 And I saw another angel coming up from the rising of the sun, who had the seal of the living God. and he cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying: 3 "Do not harm the earth, nor the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads" (7:2-3)

An epic illustration depicting a majestic angel rising from the east with the sun behind him, enveloped in a golden and divine light. The angel holds in his hand the seal of the living God, who emanates a sacred light. With a solemn and powerful expression, the angel raises a hand as he shouts to the four angels located in the four corners of the Earth. These angels are imposing, but they hold back their destructive power as they heed God's command. The landscape below is vast and symbolic: the sea motionless, the land, the trees motionless under the influence of the divine decree. The sky is dramatic with rays of celestial light illuminating the scene, emphasizing the sacred moment.

1. The Central Angel:

- The main angel dominates the scene, placed in the center and enveloped in an intense and golden light. Its wings are wide and majestic, symbolizing divine power and authority.

- The gesture of the right hand, raised upwards, conveys a sense of divine command and communication. In his left hand he seems to carry the seal of the living God, although not visible in detail.

2. Other Angels:

- The four angels are arranged around the central figure in deferential attitudes, with their hands joined or turned upwards. They seem to be listening to the order of the central angel, emphasizing their subordinate role in the execution of the divine plan.

3. Bright Background:

- The background features radiant light that radiates from top to bottom, creating an effect of celestial glory. Concentric golden circles recall perfection and divine eternity.

- At the bottom you can see an earthly landscape with mountains and streams, which represents the land still intact thanks to divine intervention.

Symbolic analysis

- The angel from the rising sun: The rising sun is a biblical symbol of hope, renewal, and divine intervention. The angel who rises from the east carries with him the seal of God, a sign of protection for His elect.

Symbolism of the Rising Sun

1. Light and Divine Grace: The rising sun is often associated with beneficial light and divine grace. This symbol represents the hope and renewal that come from God.

2. Messiah or Savior: In the biblical and Jewish tradition, the sun can be seen as a messianic symbol, associated with God's justice. The angel rising from the rising sun brings with him this message of salvation.

Role of the Angel

1. Bearer of the Divine Seal: The angel has the seal of the living God, which represents the divine authority to protect God's servants from impending judgments.

2. Salutary Mission: His mission is to save the faithful by marking them with the seal before the final destruction.

Theological Implications

1. Divine Protection: The angel's intervention emphasizes God's mercy toward His followers.

2. Separation of Righteous and Unjust: The seal serves to distinguish those who will be protected from those who will suffer judgment.

- The seal of the living God: It symbolizes divine authority and the separation of the faithful from the coming judgment. It is an act of mercy that precedes destruction.

- The Four Angels: They represent the cosmic forces ready to unleash judgment on earth, but which are temporarily held back to allow the fulfillment of the divine plan.

The image illustrates a pivotal moment in Revelation: Before the final judgment is unleashed, God orders the protection of His servants. This gesture emphasizes divine justice, which does not strike indiscriminately but protects those who belong to Him. The angel from the rising sun represents the mediation between God and the world, carrying out His plan with authority and mercy.

The work effectively captures the essence of the apocalyptic message: God's power is balanced by His mercy. The golden light and harmonious arrangement of the angels convey a sense of cosmic order and hope, even amid the prospect of impending judgment.

Sealing

4 And I heard the number of those who were marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked out of all the tribes of the children of Israel, 5 of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand marked; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand; 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand; 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand; 8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand; of Joseph's tribe twelve thousand; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand marked. (7,4-8)

The image depicts the sealing of the 144,000 chosen by the twelve tribes of Israel. A multitude of men in white robes stand in a sacred and majestic landscape, with each marked on their foreheads with a divine seal that shines with golden light. The angels perform the sealing, solemnly placing the sacred mark. The sky above them is open, with a celestial aura and beams of divine light descending upon them. In the background, the twelve tribes gathered in harmony can be glimpsed, each represented with distinctive features and

unique colors. The atmosphere is solemn and mystical, with a strong sense of divine protection and sacred destiny.

1. Crowd of the Sealed:

- In the center of the image there is a multitude of figures dressed in white, a symbol of purity and holiness. Each person wears a luminous seal on their forehead or chest, which represents the divine mark.

- Seals are characterized by golden symbols, probably related to the tribes of Israel or a spiritual meaning.

2. Angels and Divine Light:

- At the center of the scene are angels in a solemn position, who seem to administer the sealing. Their open wings and elevated position underscore their role as messengers and instruments of God.

- An intense, golden light descends from above, radiating the whole scene. This light represents the divine presence and approval of the heavenly plan.

3. Natural Background:

- The surrounding landscape features mountains and valleys, symbols of divine creation. The pristine nature seems to emphasize the harmony between God, His chosen people, and the world.

4. Celestial Atmosphere:

- The entire image is enveloped in a bright and glorious atmosphere, with golden circles suspended in the sky that recall the idea of the celestial kingdom.

Symbolic Analysis

1. White Dresses:

- They symbolize spiritual purity and redemption obtained through God.

2. The Seal:

- The seal is the hallmark of God's servants, a symbol of protection against imminent divine judgments.

3. The Divine Light:

- The light that descends from above represents divine approval and the connection between heaven and earth.

4. The Angels:

- Angels embody divine authority to carry out God's plan.

The image visually illustrates the moment described in Revelation 7: the separation and protection of the faithful before the apocalyptic events. The one hundred and forty-four thousand represent not only the tribes of Israel but also a larger symbol of God's chosen people, those who are faithful to His will.

The scene conveys a sense of cosmic order: each element is harmoniously arranged to emphasize God's sovereignty and mercy toward His chosen people.

The image captures the spiritual meaning of sealing: protection, purity, and belonging to God. Divine light, angels, and white-clad seals create a composition that celebrates divine glory and the destiny of the faithful in the eternal plan of salvation.

2. The Great Crowd: Salvation, Universalism, and the Tribulation Way (Revelation 7:9-17)

After the intimate vision of the 144,000 sealed, the apocalyptic panorama expands into an even more captivating image: a great crowd, so immense that no one could count its members, gathered before the throne and the Lamb. In verses 9-17, John invites us to observe a people who transcend all ethnic, linguistic and tribal barriers, revealing a message of salvation and inclusiveness that contrasts, yet dialogues, with the vision of the spiritual elite of the 144,000.

The Contrast between Paths of Enlightenment:

The dualism between the 144,000 and the great crowd suggests the existence of two paths of enlightenment. While the 144,000 embody an intensely individualized path of divine election and protection, the crowd represents the universal path to redemption. This dichotomy questions us: are they really two separate paths or, on the contrary, complementary parts of a single path towards light? The apocalyptic vision seems to respond that the divine embraces both itineraries, inviting each soul to find its own path to salvation, albeit through different experiences.

The Tribulation as a Crossroads of Purification:

The path of tribulation, described in the verses, is not configured as a simple path of suffering, but as an apophatic rite of purification. In this context, tribulation becomes the forge in which every claim to worldly identity is dissolved, allowing the pure essence of the spirit to emerge. It is through pain and trial that the truth is revealed, in a dynamic of destruction of old forms to make room for a new light, that of universal redemption.

The End of Distinctions and the Return to the One:

The image of the great crowd defies all hierarchical logic, announcing the dissolution of the distinctions that separate the sacred from the profane. Here, the cosmic order is reconciled with the primordial unity, in which each individual, regardless of his or her origin, returns to the One. Tribulation, therefore, is not only a process of suffering, but becomes the vehicle that transforms multiplicity into a single, vibrant symphony of salvation. It is the overcoming of dualism that allows the fusion of the elite with the people, revealing a spiritual progress that goes beyond the limitations of division.

The Paradox of the True Recovered:

In a surprising paradox, Revelation 7 celebrates those who, after passing through the fire of tribulation, emerge as the truly redeemed. The scars of suffering are not signs of failure, but testimonies of an inner transformation that has led them to the light. This paradoxical message emphasizes how the path of purification, although studded with pain, is the indispensable path to reach a condition of authentic salvation, where the power of each individual is transformed into a propulsive force for spiritual progress.

Power and Progress: Beyond the Logic of Dominion:

Finally, the story of the great crowd offers a profound reflection on the concept of power. In this scenario, power is no longer understood as an instrument of domination, but as a transformative energy that favors inner progress. Tribulation becomes the terrain in which the old hierarchies are demolished, paving the way for a new order in which spiritual liberation and collective progress are the true measure of power. In this sense, the great crowd is the emblem of a universalism that, while recognizing the value of individuality, aims at the cohesion of a common path towards light.

Through the analysis of verses Revelation 7 he offers us a vision that unites and transcends: on the one hand, the targeted selection of the 144,000; on the other, the universal openness of the great crowd. In this dialectic, the path of tribulation becomes not only a trial by fire, but the catalyst of a redemptive process, capable of transforming all suffering into a fundamental stage of spiritual progress and evolution towards unity.

Another vision

9 After these things I looked, and saw a great crowd that no one could number, from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and with palms in their hands. 10 And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (7,9-10)

After the description of the 144,000, John sees a "great crowd that no one could number, out of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues" standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Revival Doctrine: The great crowd represents the result of spiritual revival spreading to all nations. They are the ones who came out of the great tribulation, washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. Their presence indicates a global harvest of souls as a result of the preaching of the Gospel.

Negative Theology: Negative theology reminds us that the "great tribulation" is beyond our full understanding. We can only glimpse its scope and meaning through symbols and metaphors. Likewise, the joy and worship of the great crowd transcends our capacity for imagination.

Power and Progress: The great crowd demonstrates the transformative power of the gospel and the advancement of God's kingdom despite the opposition of evil. Their victory over tribulation indicates that God's power is greater than any earthly force.

The image depicts a majestic and sacred scene. In the center, there is an immense crowd that no one can count, coming from all nations, tribes, peoples and languages. People are dressed in white robes and hold palm trees in their hands, symbols of purity and victory. The crowd is standing before a golden and magnificent throne, where the Lamb sits, illuminated by a divine light. In the background, a serene and bright sky with golden and light blue hues, which conveys a feeling of peace and holiness.

The image captures the essence of the vision described in the Bible verses. The immense crowd represents the universality of salvation, inclusive of all peoples and cultures. White robes and palm trees are powerful symbols of purity, victory, and redemption. The golden throne and the Lamb at center stage symbolize divine sovereignty and glory. The divine light illuminating the Lamb and the throne emphasizes the sacredness of the moment, while the clear sky suggests eternal peace and the presence of God.

This visual depiction is inspiring and conveys a sense of hope and redemption. The scene invites reflection on the greatness and inclusiveness of divine salvation, which embraces all people, regardless of their origin. The beauty and majesty of the throne and the Lamb highlight the power and glory of God. It is an image that encourages contemplation and gratitude for the promise of salvation and eternal life.

Totality of angels

11 And all the angels were standing round the throne, and the elders, and the four living creatures; they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 12 "Amen! To our God be praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength, forever and ever! Amen».

The image depicts a majestic and sacred scene. In the center, a magnificent golden throne is surrounded by a multitude of standing angels. Angels are arranged around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. All the angels prostrate themselves on their faces before the throne, worshipping God. The scene is illuminated by a divine light emanating from the throne, creating an atmosphere of purity and holiness. In the background, elders and living creatures can be seen participating in worship.

The image captures the essence of the vision described in the Bible verses. The angels standing around the throne represent the totality of the heavenly hosts in an act of worship and reverence for God. The gesture of prostration with the face to the ground symbolizes humility and absolute devotion. The divine light that illuminates the scene emphasizes the sacredness and divine presence. The arrangement of angels, elders, and living creatures around the throne creates a sense of celestial order and harmony.

This visual depiction is extremely inspirational and conveys a sense of reverence and adoration. The scene invites reflection on the greatness and majesty of God, and on the humility and devotion of the heavenly hosts. The beauty and majesty of the throne and angels emphasize the power and glory of God. It is an image that encourages contemplation and gratitude for the divine presence and eternal worship.

One of the elders

13 Then one of the elders spoke to me, saying, "Who are these people dressed in white, and where did they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know it." And he said to me, "They are the ones who come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their garments, and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple; and he that is seated on the throne shall spread his tent over them. 16 They will hunger no more, nor thirst, nor shall the sun strike them, nor any heat; 17 For the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne will feed them and guide them to the springs of the waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The following four images are related to the passage from Revelation 7:13-17.

Image 1

A large crowd dressed in white is gathered in adoration. Central figures, also dressed in white, ascend towards an intense light in the sky. Angels are present, creating an atmosphere of exultation.

Symbolism:

The crowd represents the redeemed who have overcome the great tribulation and have been cleansed ("they have washed their garments and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb").

The bright light symbolizes the presence of God.

Ascension indicates entry into the celestial kingdom.

This image captures the joy and hope of the redeemed entering God's presence, a visual interpretation of verse 15 ("Therefore they stand before the throne of God, and serve him day and night").

Image 2

Figures dressed in white watch a figure ascend to the sky. The background shows a dramatic landscape with mountains and, in the distance, signs of destruction or fire.

Symbolism:

The figures dressed in white represent believers who have overcome tribulation.

The ascendant figure can be seen as Christ leading His followers out of tribulation to salvation.

The landscape in the background is a reminder of the difficulties and trials faced.

This image emphasizes Christ's leadership through tribulation and toward salvation, interpreting verse 17 ("the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to the springs of the waters of life").

Image 3

A figure dressed in white is facing a source of intense light. Angels are present, and a multitude of figures in white robes bow in adoration.

Symbolism:

The central figure is Christ, the source of light and life.

The multitude he worships represents the redeemed who serve God in His temple.

The angels emphasize the celestial nature of the scene.

This image visually represents verse 15, describing the redeemed serving God day and night in His celestial temple.

Image 4

A figure in white clothes ascends, surrounded by bright light. A crowd of people dressed in white watches in adoration.

Symbolism:

The ascending figure is Christ, who triumphs and guides the redeemed.

The light represents the divine presence and glory of the celestial kingdom.

The adoring crowd symbolizes the redeemed who receive comfort and protection.

This image emphasizes verses 16 and 17, representing how, in the celestial kingdom, the redeemed will no longer suffer and will be led to the sources of eternal life.

The four images, taken together, offer a visual representation of the passage from Revelation 7:13-17. They depict:

1. The Purification and Redemption: The white clothes and the bright light symbolize the purification of the redeemed through the blood of the Lamb.

2. The Entrance into the Heavenly Kingdom: The ascending figures and the presence of angels indicate the entry of the redeemed into the kingdom of God.

3. Service and Worship: The multitude who worship and serve God represent their eternal devotion.

4. Comfort and Protection: The promise that they will no longer suffer hunger, thirst, or heat is visually represented by Christ's light and guidance to the waters of life.

These images offer a consoling visual perspective on the promise of salvation, comfort, and eternal life offered to believers through faith in Christ.

3. Power, Tribulation, and Progress: A Contemporary Reading

In the current context, John's apocalyptic vision in Revelation 7 offers a stimulating starting point for reflecting on the profound meaning of tribulation as a crisis and opportunity in the human journey. The images of the 144,000 sealed and the great crowd are not mere representations of supernatural forces, but powerful metaphors that invite us to reconsider our relationship with pain, change and transformation.

The image, inspired by John's apocalyptic vision in Revelation 7, makes us reflect on the meaning of tribulation as a crisis and opportunity in the human journey.

The image depicts a powerful and symbolic scene. In the center, a group of 144,000 sealed people, with determined faces and white clothes, symbolizes purity and divine protection. Around them, a large crowd from all nations, tribes, peoples and languages, creates a circle of unity and diversity. Each individual holds a palm tree in his hand, a symbol of victory and peace. In the background, the throne of God and the Lamb are illuminated by a divine light, emanating a sense of sacredness and redemption.

The image captures the essence of the verses of Revelation 7, highlighting the duality of tribulation as crisis and opportunity. The 144,000 sealed represent those who are protected and called to overcome difficulties, while the great crowd symbolizes the universality of salvation and hope in the midst of pain. The palms in the hands represent victory over tribulation and the promise of peace. The divine light illuminating the throne and the Lamb emphasizes the presence of God and the possibility of redemption.

This visual representation invites us to reflect on the profound meaning of tribulation in human life. The crisis is seen not only as a time of suffering, but also as an opportunity for growth and transformation. The scene emphasizes the importance of unity, diversity, and hope in difficult times. God's presence and promise of salvation are a beacon of light and hope, encouraging individuals to find strength and courage in the face of adversity. It is an image that celebrates human resilience and belief in the power of redemption.

The Tribulation as Crisis and Opportunity:

Tribulation, far from being just a period of suffering, is configured as a crucial phase of purification and rebirth. Just as fire transforms metal, the difficulties and crises of our existence shake the foundations of old habits and thought structures, opening the way for inner transformation. In this sense, Revelation 7 teaches us that every experience of pain can be reinterpreted as an opportunity for spiritual awakening: an invitation to let go of what is not needed, to make room for new forms of awareness and personal growth.

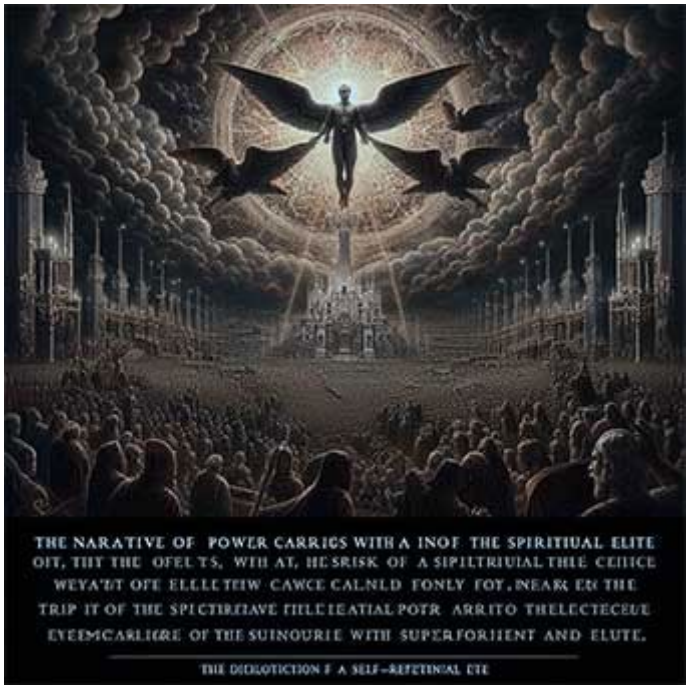
The image depicts a symbolic and intense scene. At the center, a landscape divided between two contrasting realities: on the one hand, burning flames and darkness represent crisis and tribulation; on the other, bright light and ethereal figures symbolize rebirth and transformation. In the central part of the image, a human figure can be seen emerging from the flames, with an expression of determination and courage. Around her, elements of purification, such as fire transforming metal, illustrate the process of inner change. In the background, a clearing sky represents hope and the promise of a new beginning.

The image captures the essence of the vision of Revelation 7, emphasizing the duality of tribulation as a time of crisis and an opportunity for transformation. The central figure represents the individual who passes through the fire of suffering to emerge strengthened and purified. The flames and darkness on the one hand symbolize old habits and thought structures that are being destroyed, while the light and ethereal figures on the other side indicate spiritual growth and renewed awareness. The clearing sky emphasizes the importance of hope and redemption in the human journey.

This visual representation invites us to reflect on the profound meaning of tribulation in our lives. The crisis is seen not only as a time of suffering, but as an opportunity for purification and inner rebirth. The image reminds us that, just as fire transforms metal, difficulties and crises can shake the foundations of old habits and pave the way for personal and spiritual transformation. It is an invitation to reinterpret every experience of pain as an opportunity for spiritual awakening and personal growth.

The Dialectic of Power and the Risk of a Self-Referential Elite:

The narrative of the 144,000 carries with it the idea of a spiritual elite, a choice that could easily fall into the trap of a self-referential power, in which election becomes synonymous with superiority and exclusion. However, a contemporary and critical reading highlights how authentic power is not aimed at domination, but at the ability to transform and liberate. The dialectic of power in this context is articulated between the use of power as an instrument of protection and as a force of inclusion, which must constantly overcome the risk of becoming an elitist and segregating mechanism. The challenge is to reinterpret the idea of election not as a barrier that separates, but as a starting point for a shared path of awareness and renewal.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The image depicts a complex and symbolic scene. In the center, a group of 144,000 people dressed in white represent the spiritual elite. These figures are arranged on an elevated pedestal, suggesting their elevated and distinct position. Around them, an aura of golden light envelops them, separating them from the crowd below. The crowd, from all nations, tribes, peoples and languages, stands at the foot of the pedestal, looking upwards with expressions of admiration and reverence. In the background, the throne of God and the Lamb are illuminated by a divine light, observing the scene from above.

The image captures the essence of the vision of Revelation 7, highlighting the dialectic of power and the risk of a self-referential elite. The 144,000 represent the spiritual elite, but their high position and separation from the crowd can suggest a sense of superiority and exclusion. The golden aura emphasizes their election, but at the same time highlights the distance between them and the rest of humanity. The adoring crowd reflects the risk of idolatry and dependence on an elite perceived as superior. The throne of God and the Lamb in the background emphasize divine authority and justice, suggesting that true power belongs to God.

This visual depiction invites us to reflect on the complexity of spiritual power and the dangers of a self-referential elite. The image raises important questions about the relationship between election and responsibility, and the importance of avoiding the trap of superiority and exclusion. The scene emphasizes the need for humility and inclusiveness in the spiritual journey, reminding us that true power and justice belong to God. It is an image that invites critical reflection and the search for a balance between spiritual authority and service to humanity.

Universalism and Awakening: Towards a New Synthesis between Transcendence and Progress:

The great crowd, made up of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, represents the universal dimension of salvation. This image leads us to a vision in which spiritual awakening is not the prerogative of a few, but a global call that embraces the totality of humanity. Spiritual progress, in this perspective, is achieved through the integration of every human experience, where crises and tribulations become the fertile ground for collective renewal. Thus a new synthesis is outlined: transcendence, understood as a profound inner experience, is united with progress, which is manifested in the ability to build authentic and inclusive communities. In this scenario, power does not oppress, but elevates; it does not divide, but unites, contributing to an evolutionary path that overcomes all forms of dualism.

The image depicts a vibrant and symbolic scene. In the center, a luminous human figure embodies the union between transcendence and progress. Around this figure, a diverse and united community builds harmonious and modern structures, a symbol of social progress. In the background, a celestial landscape with radiant light and ethereal figures represents transcendence and the spiritual dimension. The contrast between light and shadow, between earth and sky, creates a sense of synthesis and harmony.

The image captures the essence of the vision of Revelation 7, highlighting the integration between deep inner experience and social progress. The central human figure represents the awakened individual who transcends dualities and unites the spiritual and material worlds. The diverse community around her symbolizes inclusivity and authenticity in human relationships. Modern and harmonious structures represent the ability to build a better future based on spiritual values and technological progress. The radiant light and ethereal figures in the background emphasize the divine presence and the possibility of redemption and transformation.

This visual representation conveys a message of hope and unity. The image invites us to reflect on the possibility of uniting transcendence and progress in an evolutionary path that overcomes all forms of dualism. The scene suggests that authentic power does not oppress but elevates, does not divide but unites,

contributing to the construction of authentic and inclusive communities. It is an image that celebrates human resilience and the ability to transform crises into opportunities for spiritual and social growth.

Through this contemporary reading, Revelation 7 invites us to reconsider our approach to existential crises, transforming them into opportunities for profound awakening and collective progress. Tribulation, the dialectic of power and the universality of salvation are intertwined to outline a path in which suffering is not the end, but the beginning of a transformation capable of freeing the individual and humanity from the rigidity of the old hierarchies, opening the way to a new era of unity and awareness.

4. Dialectic between Selection and Universality in the Path of Awakening

In the vibrant setting of Revelation 7, the vision of the 144,000 sealed and the great crowd is presented as an invitation to overcome the apparent dualism between the elite and the multitude, paving the way for a non-dual reading of the spiritual path. These images, while outlining a specific choice and targeted protection, are not configured as entities in conflict, but as two sides of the awakening coin: one highlights individual transformation, the other universal union.

Apparent Dualism: An Invitation to Non-Dual Vision

The verses describing the 144,000 and the great crowd initially seem to suggest a clear separation between those who are chosen and those who gather, innumerable and varied. However, a deep reading of the text reveals that this duality is only apparent. The choice of the 144,000, a symbol of personal protection and transformation, fits perfectly with the image of the multitude, which embraces every nation, tribe, people and language. In this way, the path of awakening is presented as an inclusive path, where the distinction between the individual and the collective dissolves into the mystical experience of union with the divine.

The image depicted is a symbolic work that represents the concept of apparent dualism and the invitation to non-dual vision.

- Central division: The image is divided into two symmetrical halves, one bright and the other dark, which meet in the center in a circle containing two meditative figures (probably Buddhas or symbols of spiritual wisdom). This division recalls the idea of duality: light and dark, day and night, life and death.

- Natural elements: Both halves include trees and birds, but with opposite characteristics. On the left, the trees are lush and blooming, while on the right they are bare and shrouded in dark clouds. The birds fly freely, indicating a continuous movement between the two worlds.

- Architecture: The scene is framed by classical columns, suggesting stability and universal order. The floor leads to the center, creating a sense of convergence.

- Circle symbolism: In the center of the circle is a sun or light source that unites the two meditative figures. This element symbolizes unity beyond duality.

The image visually represents the theme of apparent dualism described in the biblical text (Revelation 7). The two opposing halves are not in conflict but coexist in balance, suggesting that the separation between light and dark is only illusory. This concept is reflected in the interpretation of the "144,000" and the "great crowd" as complementary parts of a single spiritual reality.

- The meditative figures: They symbolize non-dual awareness, where the individual (144,000) and the collective (the great crowd) merge into an experience of divine unity.

- The light-dark contrast: It represents the human perception of duality (good/evil, chosen/not chosen), which is overcome through spiritual awakening.

- Birds in flight: They indicate the freedom of the spirit to move between polarities without being bound by them.

The image invites us to reflect on overcoming apparent oppositions. As in the text of Revelation 7, what initially seems to be a clear division between "chosen" and "multitude" dissolves into an inclusive and unified vision. The spiritual path is not exclusive but embraces all differences to lead to union with the divine.

In summary, the visual work is a powerful representation of the non-dualistic message of the biblical text, emphasizing that each distinction is part of a larger whole.

The mystical experience

The apparent dualism dissolves in the mystical experience through different processes and understandings that lead to a deeper perception of reality

1. Unity of Being

In mystical experience, one realizes that all forms of life and all experiences are manifestations of one fundamental reality. This awareness leads to the recognition that the distinctions between subject and object, me and other, are illusory. The separation that characterizes dualism is overcome by the understanding that everything is interconnected.

The image depicts a group of people sitting in a circle in a luminous forest, immersed in an ethereal and mystical atmosphere. Bubbles of light float in the air, while a bright light source in the center of the circle illuminates the scene.

Image description

- Natural setting: The scene takes place in a lush forest, with trees and leaves framing the space. Nature is represented as a sacred and harmonious place.

- The human circle: People sitting in a circle seem to share a moment of collective connection. The circular arrangement suggests equality, unity and the absence of hierarchies.

- Light elements: Light bubbles float in the air, creating a magical atmosphere. In the center of the circle, a bright light dominates the scene, a symbol of divine energy or universal truth.

- Chromatic hues: The colors are warm and vibrant, with shades of green, gold, and white evoking peace and spirituality.

Symbolic analysis

The image is a visual representation of the idea of the "Oneness of Being" described in the text. Each element contributes to conveying the message that all forms of life are interconnected and part of a single fundamental reality.

The human circle:

- The circle is a universal symbol of unity, infinity, and cyclicity. Here it represents the interconnectedness between people and their connection to the divine.

- The position of the people suggests meditation or collective prayer, emphasizing the importance of spiritual community.

The central light:

- The light source in the center of the circle symbolizes divine presence or spiritual enlightenment. It is the focal point that unites all participants.

- This light also represents the dissolution of dualism: there is no separation between the individual and the collective, between the human and the divine.

The light bubbles:

- Floating bubbles can be interpreted as souls or spiritual energies that connect each individual to universal reality.

- They create a sense of lightness and transcendence, suggesting that material reality is only a temporary manifestation of something greater.

The Sacred Forest:

- The surrounding nature recalls the idea that the divine manifests itself in every aspect of the natural world. The forest becomes a sacred space where unity between man and the environment is achieved.

The image perfectly captures the mystical concept of the unity of being. The human circle symbolizes the connection between individuals, while the central light represents the divine essence that transcends all distinction. The natural environment emphasizes the harmony between man and nature, reinforcing the idea that everything is part of a single, interconnected system.

In relation to the text from Revelation 7, this image can be seen as a visual representation of the inclusive multitude described in the biblical vision. There is no separation between the "144,000" and the "great crowd"; both are part of the same universal circle illuminated by the divine presence.

In summary, the image invites us to reflect on the importance of collective connection and the abandonment of illusory divisions to embrace a non-dualistic vision of reality.

2. Transformation of Perception

During mystical experiences, individuals often report a transformation of sensory and cognitive perception. Mental categories such as good and evil, right and wrong, blur, allowing a broader and more inclusive view of reality. This paradigm shift allows us to see beyond apparent oppositions.

The image depicts a human figure in a meditative position, surrounded by a swirl of vibrant and bright colors that seem to emanate energy and movement. It is a visually powerful work that conveys the theme of the transformation of perception into mystical experience.

Image description

- The central figure: A human silhouette is seated in the lotus position, a symbol of meditation, introspection, and spiritual connection. The figure is illuminated by an intense light emanating from its center, probably from the heart or heart chakra.

- Swirl of colors: A dynamic flow of bright colors (blue, red, orange, green and purple) develops around the figure, intertwining in a spiraling motion. This vortex seems to represent energy in constant transformation.

- Light source: At the top left is a second light source, similar to a sun or energy core, connected to the central figure through wavy lines that resemble paths of energy or consciousness.

- Cosmic details: The image includes small bright dots that recall stars or particles of energy, evoking a connection to the universe.

Symbolic analysis

The image visually represents the concept of transformation of perception during mystical experience. Each element helps illustrate the shift from a dualistic and limited view of reality to a broader and more inclusive understanding.

The meditative figure:

- It symbolizes the individual entering a state of higher awareness. The lotus position indicates balance and openness to the transcendent.

- The light emanating from the center of the body represents inner enlightenment and the dissolution of the barriers between the individual self and the whole.

The swirl of colors:

- The bright colors and their dynamic movement represent the fluidity of perception during the mystical experience. The rigid categories (good/evil, right/wrong) dissolve into a harmonious dance of opposites.

- The vortex also suggests the connection between the microcosm (the individual) and the macrocosm (the universe).

The external light source:

- This light could symbolize the divine or a higher reality with which the individual communes. The connection between the light source and the central figure emphasizes the idea that there is no separation between the human and the transcendent.

The cosmic elements:

- The points of light evoke the infinity of the universe and suggest that the mystical experience allows one to perceive one's belonging to a greater and interconnected reality.

The image perfectly captures the theme of the transformation of perception described in the text. During mystical experiences, rigid mental categories dissolve, allowing the individual to see beyond apparent oppositions. This is represented by the harmonious flow of colors and the connection between the human figure and the light source.

In relation to the text taken from Revelation 7, the image can be interpreted as a symbolic representation of the overcoming of the distinctions between "chosen" and "multitude". Both are part of the same universal flow, united in the divine light that transcends all separation.

In summary, this image invites us to reflect on the fluid nature of reality perceived during the mystical experience, where every distinction dissolves into a profound union with the whole. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of embracing a broader and more inclusive view of life and the universe.

The image conveys a series of deep emotions and feelings, often associated with mystical experience and inner transformation:

Peace and serenity: The meditative position of the central figure and the harmony of colors help to create a sense of inner calm.

Unity and connection: The swirl of colors that surrounds the figure suggests a deep connection with the universe and all forms of life.

Enlightenment and awareness: The intense light emanating from the figure evokes a sense of mental and spiritual clarity, as if one is reaching a new understanding of reality.

Transcendence and freedom: The dynamism of colors and the presence of cosmic elements convey a sense of liberation from earthly limitations and expansion of consciousness.

Love and compassion: The energy radiating from the central figure can be interpreted as an expression of universal love and compassion for all beings.

Wonder and amazement: The beauty and complexity of the image arouse a sense of wonder in the face of the mysteries of existence.

Hope and inspiration: The transformation visible in the image instills hope in the possibility of personal growth and spiritual evolution.

In summary, the image evokes a set of positive and deep emotions, reflecting the mystical experience of union with the divine, inner transformation and expansion of consciousness.

3. Integration of Oppositions

Mystical experience often involves the integration of opposite polarities. For example, light and darkness, joy and sorrow can be experienced as parts of a natural cycle rather than as conflicting forces. This integration leads to a greater acceptance of the totality of human experience.

The image shows a group of people sitting in a meditative position in a circle on lush ground, surrounded by trees whose branches and leaves form a kind of vault above them. The scene is divided into two distinct, but interconnected, halves. One side is characterized by warm colors, such as reds, oranges, and yellows, while the other features cool hues, such as blue and purple. Both halves contain spiritual symbols and floral motifs. A waterfall flows on one side, while the other appears to have crystals or rock formations. In the center, above the circle of people, an intense light illuminates the scene.

Symbolic analysis

The image represents the integration of opposite polarities, a key concept in the mystical experience.

Dualistic division: The clear separation between warm and cold colors highlights the oppositions that characterize our perception of the world: light and dark, masculine and feminine, rationality and intuition.

The circle of meditators: The group of people sitting in a circle symbolizes humanity seeking inner harmony and unity with the universe. Their meditative practice represents the path towards the integration of their own shadows and lights.

The central light: The bright light in the center represents the transcendent truth that emerges when oppositions are integrated. It is the point of balance where polarities merge, revealing the totality of human experience.

The natural elements: The waterfall and the crystals/rocks symbolize fluidity and solidity, two complementary aspects of reality. Floral motifs represent the beauty and growth that emerge from the harmony between opposites.

The tree canopy: The trees that intertwine above the circle create a sacred space, a refuge in which you can explore and integrate your inner polarities.

The image conveys a message of hope and transformation. It invites us to explore our inner polarities and seek the balance between our lights and shadows. The mystical experience, as represented in the image, is not an escape from reality, but a path to a deeper and more inclusive understanding of it. By integrating our oppositions, we can achieve greater acceptance of ourselves and the world around us.

In the context of Revelation 7, the image can be interpreted as a vision of the multitude gathering before the throne, overcoming earthly divisions and suffering. The divine light represents the grace that illuminates and transforms all those who open themselves to the integration of their polarities. The image reminds us that salvation is not reserved for a select few, but is a universal experience that everyone can access through the practice of meditation and opening the heart.

4. Feeling of Loss of Self

Many mystics describe a sense of loss of individual self during their experiences. This state of "ego extinction" allows individuals to transcend their sense of separate identity, experiencing a fusion with the whole. In this state, the concept of dualism becomes irrelevant.

In the image you can see a figure sitting in meditation on a rock, surrounded by a wooded landscape with dreamlike tones. A ray of intense light filters through the trees, while autumn leaves seem to hang in the air, floating towards the light. The atmosphere is shrouded in a soft haze that gives a sense of depth and mystery.

Visual and symbolic description

The figure in meditation

- He is in a sitting position (reminiscent of the lotus posture), with his legs crossed and his hands probably on his knees, in an attitude that suggests recollection and inner silence.

- The absence of distinctive facial features makes it a universal symbol, an image that can represent each of us in search of a state of peace or enlightenment.

The natural environment

- The forest is characterized by tall trees covered with moss, with long branches that descend from above, almost creating a natural curtain.

- Calm water reflects sunlight, emphasizing the idea of purity and inner reflection.

- The suspended leaves that move in the air suggest a passage or a transformation: from static to dynamic, from the ordinary to the sacred.

The central light

- The focal point is a glow that seeps through the branches, creating an almost divine or supernatural effect.

- This light could be interpreted as the presence of the sacred, the divine, or as the manifestation of an inner enlightenment.

Analysis in a mystical key: "Feeling of loss of self"

- The human figure in meditation, immersed in an overlying and "alive" nature, suggests the idea of an abandonment of the ego. The human being is no longer at the center as a separate individual, but blends harmoniously with the environment.

- The image communicates a unity with the whole: the leaves, the water, the light, the trees and the person in meditation seem to be part of a single vital flow.

- The boundary between the ego and the external world is blurred: the "extinction of the ego" is represented in a delicate, almost suspended way, as if the subject were entering another dimension where the dualism (I vs. the world, body vs. spirit) loses its meaning.

Commentary and connection with the biblical theme (Revelation 7)

- In chapter 7 of Revelation, we find a vision of a multitude appearing before the throne of God. The biblical image emphasizes the idea of a united collectivity, without individual distinctions or barriers, in a state of universal praise and communion.

- This recalls the mystical idea of "fusion" with the divine and with creation, where individual identity does not disappear to cancel itself out, but merges into a greater whole, becoming part of a vaster reality.

- In the image, the light could symbolize the divine presence that recalls the apocalyptic vision: a radiance that envelops everything, canceling separations and differences, just as the multitude of the Apocalypse is described "of every nation, tribe, people and tongue".

- The feeling of loss of the self, therefore, is not a nihilistic void, but a "transcending" of the boundaries of the ego, in resonance with the idea of spiritual union described in mystical texts and apocalyptic visions.

The image strongly conveys the theme of the "Feeling of Loss of Self" and the "extinction of the ego", immersing the viewer in a landscape that invites inner recollection and contemplation of the divine (or a higher principle). The suspended atmosphere, the intense light and the fusion of the figure with nature refer to the mystical experience of those who feel part of a whole, beyond any dualistic distinction. Connecting everything to Revelation 7, one perceives the reference to the idea of a unified multitude in divine light, an experience of total communion where the self dissolves to find itself in a greater spiritual union.

5. Universal Love

The mystical experience is often accompanied by a deep sense of universal love and compassion for all beings. This sentiment transcends cultural, ethnic, or religious distinctions, promoting the idea that each individual is an integral part of a single collective consciousness.

In the image you can see a large group of people, arranged in a circle, holding hands. The colors are vibrant, with a strong presence of rainbow tones and bright shades surrounding the entire scene. In the background, cosmic shapes and swirls of light intertwine in an abstract dance, converging towards a point of great brightness in the center of the image.

Visual and symbolic description

1. The multitude of people

- The characters seem to come from different cultures, ethnicities and age groups: this is suggested by the different clothes and physical silhouettes.

- They are arranged in a circle and hold hands, expressing unity, harmony and a sense of sharing.

2. The circle as a symbol

- The circular arrangement evokes the idea of equality and continuity: there is no "leader" or "last" in the circle, but only a mutual connection.

- The circle also recalls the cyclical nature of life and the idea of union that overcomes all distinctions.

3. The cosmic element and the central light

- In the sky or background you can see an explosion of abstract shapes, galaxies, planets or spirals of energy. These elements suggest a broader, universal context that transcends land boundaries.

- In the center stands an intense, almost dazzling light, which can be interpreted as a source of divine, spiritual or cosmic energy.

4. Vibrant colors

- Rainbow hues and bright shades convey a sense of joy, openness, and hope.

- The contrast between white light and more saturated colors highlights an atmosphere of celebration and "collective lighting".

Analysis in a mystical key: "Universal Love"

- The image of people from different backgrounds united in a circular embrace perfectly represents the idea of a love that overcomes cultural, ethnic and religious barriers.

- Physical contact (hands clasped out) symbolizes closeness and mutual solidarity: a love that is not theoretical, but concrete, expressed in a simple and universal gesture.

- The cosmic background refers to the spiritual dimension and the idea that humanity is part of a larger "collective consciousness", in which each individual is a spark of a single Light.

Commentary and connection with the biblical theme (Revelation 7)

- In chapter 7 of Revelation, John describes a great crowd of people "out of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue" who appear before the throne of God. This vision emphasizes the universality and inclusiveness of spiritual experience.

- The image in question seems to evoke precisely that idea of a unified people, not divided by barriers or discrimination, coming together in a single act of veneration, prayer or celebration.

- The "Universal Love" of which mystical experience speaks finds a parallel in the message of the Apocalypse: a multitude gathered under the same divine light, in perfect communion.

- In this context, the Apocalypse is not seen only as a book of catastrophes, but as a revelation of the fullness of the divine plan: a reconciled humanity, united in love, transcending differences and recognizing itself as part of a single transcendent reality.

This image powerfully conveys the idea of a Universal Love, expressed both through the multitude of people holding hands, and through the cosmic dimension that embraces and supports the scene. The reference to Revelation 7 emphasizes the concept of a humanity united under a divine or spiritual light, capable of transcending all distinctions. The central message is that of global brotherhood, shared compassion and a deep sense of belonging to a single "collective consciousness".

6. Revelation of the Inner Truth

Finally, mystical experience can lead to a personal revelation of inner truth, where the individual recognizes his or her own divine or essential nature. This realization dissolves the dualism between the divine and the profane, leading to a life lived in harmony with one's true essence.

In the image you can see a human figure sitting in meditation, enveloped in an almost magical atmosphere and surrounded by a luminous forest. Above her, in the sky between the trees, concentric geometric shapes appear that seem to emanate an intense and multicolored light. The overall effect is that of a surreal environment, where nature and cosmic energy merge into a single, vibrant manifestation of beauty and spiritual power.

Visual and symbolic description

1. The figure in meditation

- The subject is in a sitting position, similar to the lotus posture, a symbol of recollection and inner search.

- The silhouette is devoid of distinctive details, suggesting the idea of an "every-man" or "every-woman": a universal symbol of the human being who seeks contact with his own deep essence.

2. The roots and the connection with the earth

- Below the figure, you can see bright lines that resemble roots or energetic filaments expanding into the ground.

- This visual representation can be read as the deep connection with the earth, stability, and the source of spiritual nourishment that arises from contact with the material and physical dimensions.

3. Geometric shapes and upper light

- The concentric spheres and circles, together with the shapes of the "flower of life" or "sacred geometry", refer to concepts of harmony, cosmic order and perfection.

- The light seems to come from these structures, creating a bridge between the top and the bottom: a symbolic link between the divine or cosmic dimension and the human being in meditation.

4. The illuminated forest

- The trees stand out against a background of golden lights and green-blue tones, accentuating a dreamlike and mystical atmosphere.

- The trunks, like columns, recall the image of a "natural temple" in which revelation takes place.

Analysis in a mystical key: "Revelation of the Inner Truth

- The image suggests a moment of deep intuition or awakening: the meditating person is in a sacred place (the forest), immersed in subtle and luminous energies.

- The "inner truth" appears as an experience of oneness with the cosmos: the circles of light above the head could represent the levels of consciousness or spiritual dimensions that open up to the individual during the mystical experience.

- This revelation dissolves the separation between the "divine" and the "profane": nature (trees, earth, roots) and sky (geometric shapes, light) are no longer distant, but participate in the same unified reality.

- The human being, recognizing his divine or essential nature, lives in harmony with himself and with the whole, as if he had finally remembered his most authentic identity.

Commentary and connection with the biblical theme (Revelation 7)

- In chapter 7 of Revelation, there is talk of a great crowd that presents itself before the throne of God, united in an act of veneration. This crowd is no longer separated by divisions of language, ethnicity or culture, but is reconciled into a single vision of truth.

- The reference to "revelation" (the term "apocalypse" itself means "unveiling") finds correspondence in this image: just as humanity recognizes its own communion with the divine, the individual here finds the inner truth that connects him to the entire universe.

- Just as the crowd in Revelation 7 lives an experience of union with the divine, the figure in meditation symbolizes the reconciliation between the earthly and the transcendent dimensions, in an act of contemplation and awakening to one's essence.

This image conveys a powerful sense of personal revelation and cosmic unity. The meditating figure, surrounded by lights and geometric shapes, becomes the fulcrum of an experience that dissolves the dualism between the divine and the profane, revealing the profound nature of being. The reference to Revelation 7 emphasizes the "revelatory" and universal aspect of this inner discovery: a humanity that awakens and recognizes its divine origin, abandoning separations to live in harmony with the most authentic truth.

In summary, the mystical experience offers a powerful tool to overcome apparent dualism, allowing individuals to live in a state of unity and connection with all that exists.

The Role of Negative Theology: Dissolution of Rigid Categories

Negative theology, which refuses to reduce the Mystery to fixed definitions, plays a key role in overcoming the rigid dichotomies imposed by a dualistic reading of the text. It invites us not to confine the divine to preconceived categories of "elect" and "non-elect", but to recognize that every manifestation of light is an integral part of a single ineffable reality. Through this perspective, apocalyptic images are transformed: choice and universality are not in opposition, but dynamic elements that, together, open the door to a deeper and more fluid understanding of the Mystery.

The image appears to depict a solemn and mystical scene, in line with apocalyptic visions and the symbolism of negative theology.

Image Description

The composition shows a central figure elevated on a throne or platform, surrounded by other characters seated in an attitude of judgment or advice. The main figure is wrapped in a luminous aura with a large radiant wheel or seal behind him, a symbol of transcendence and divine mystery. Under this platform, roots develop, which seem to connect the higher realm to the lower one, evoking an idea of interconnectedness between the dimensions of being.

Around this scene, a multitude of hooded or veiled figures watch in silence, almost in adoration or expectation. The setting is monumental, with towers or columns emerging from the fog, recalling an archetypal and otherworldly dimension.

Analysis and Connection with Revelation 7

Chapter 7 of Revelation is known for the vision of the 144,000 marked and the great multitude dressed in white. This image could represent a symbolic interpretation of that passage:

- The central figure can be seen as the glorified Christ or a symbol of the inaccessible divine, which in negative theology cannot be contained in fixed definitions.

- The circle of characters around it could represent the elders of the Apocalypse, those who mediate between the divine and humanity.

- The roots under the platform suggest a link between the transcendent and the immanent, consistent with the idea that the divine cannot be confined to absolute categories.

- The hooded multitude recalls the crowd of John's vision, which cannot be enumerated, consisting of "every nation, and tribe, people, and tongue" (Rev 7:9). This underlines the overcoming of a rigid vision of "elected" and "unelected".

Theological Commentary and Interpretation

Negative theology invites us to see this scene not as a rigid hierarchy, but as a dynamic emanation of the Mystery. The divine is not reducible to a dichotomy between the saved and the damned, but is a fluid process that involves the whole of reality. The image conveys precisely this tension: there is an apparent separation (the throne above, the multitude below), but at the same time everything is connected (the roots, the expanding light).

This approach allows us to read Revelation 7 not as an exclusion of a few and a salvation reserved for a few, but as the revelation of a deeper reality, in which the limit between choice and universality dissolves in the divine Mystery.

The Transformation of the Individual and the Collective: Inner Power vs. Worldly Power

Revelation 7 offers us a reflection on power that goes beyond mere worldly domination. Inner power, which manifests itself in spiritual awakening, is opposed to external and hierarchical power, embodied by the tendency to privilege a "chosen" minority. True transformation, in fact, does not consist in creating barriers between the individual and the collective, but in fostering a process of growth that illuminates both. The path traced by the verses shows how the divine seal does not impose a definitive exclusion, but rather signals the passage from a condition of fragmentation to a condition of unity. In this process, the power of the individual, based on inner awareness and awakening, is integrated with that of the collective, giving rise to a spiritual progress that breaks down the old logic of domination.

The image has a symmetrical composition, divided vertically into two halves contrasting in colors and symbols. In the center, a human figure seated in a meditative position acts as a pivot between the two worlds: the left side is characterized by warm tones (orange, yellow), while the right part adopts cold colors (light blue, blue). Above the central figure stands the terrestrial globe, suspended in an aura that seems to unify both sides.

At the two extremes, we note royal or priestly figures, with elaborate headdresses, which recall institutional or "worldly" power. On the left, faces and gestures appear more aggressive or bright, while on the right, mirrored attitudes emerge but in a colder chromatic context. Behind them you can see imposing buildings, such as towers or monuments, symbolizing the collective and historical dimension of power. Below, at the foot of the central figure, other people in an attitude of listening or meditation seem to be witnesses of this contrast.

Symbolic Analysis

- Division into two halves: It represents the dualism between inner power (spiritual) and outer power (worldly, hierarchical). The warm/cold colors underline the tension between these two forces.

- Central figure in meditation: It is the fulcrum that reconciles opposites. With its balanced posture, it suggests the transition from fragmentation to totality.

- Suspended Earth: Placed above the meditator's head, it seems to symbolize the universal dimension of human experience: a call to unity and collective responsibility.

- Regal characters on the sides: They embody worldly power, institutional authority that often expresses itself in forms of domination or control. Their faces and expressions (more intense on the left, colder on the right) highlight the variety with which external power can manifest itself.

- Monuments in the background: They recall the "historical" or "cultural" aspect of power, rooted in traditions, institutions and symbols of collective greatness.

Commentary and Connection with Revelation 7

Chapter 7 of the Apocalypse, with the vision of the "marked" and the multitude, invites us to reflect on the authentic meaning of the "divine seal": not a barrier that excludes, but a sign of transformation and belonging to a higher reality. In this image, the contrast between the two parts (inner power vs. worldly power) takes up the idea of a tension that can lead to a higher synthesis:

1. Inner power: Symbolized by the figure in meditation, it indicates individual growth, spiritual awareness and the ability to go beyond categories and hierarchies imposed from the outside.

2. Worldly power: Depicted by the royal figures, it recalls domination, social structures and the tendency to create divisions or "elites". It is a power that may be necessary for collective organization, but risks crystallizing in forms of control that exclude the other.

3. Passage from fragmentation to unity: Just as in Revelation 7 the multitude is composed of "every tribe, people and tongue", here we see a humanity that, although divided in the external forms of power, can find in the "center" (meditation, inner searching) a principle of unification.

4. Beyond the "old logics of domination": The image suggests that true spiritual progress lies not in strengthening hierarchies, but in allowing each individual to access a source of inner power, in harmony with the collective.

In summary, the visual work communicates a message of integration and transcendence: authentic power is born from inner awareness and pours into the community, dissolving the barriers that separate the "elect" and the "non-elect". It is an invitation to see in individual awakening the seed of a transformation that embraces the whole of humanity, in line with the apocalyptic idea of a revelation capable of reconciling the fragment with unity.

Conclusion of Section

Thus, the dialectic between selection and universality in Revelation 7 is not a call for permanent divisions, but an invitation to a radical transformation in which dualism gives way to a non-dual and inclusive vision. The path of revival, illuminated by negative theology, spurs us to overcome rigid categories and to recognize in every soul, both that of the 144,000 and that of the great crowd, the invitation to unite on a common journey towards the light. In this way, the transformation of the individual blends harmoniously with the progress of the collective, creating a path that elevates the power within and fully embraces the divine Mystery.

The scene is divided vertically into two distinct, but complementary, halves. In the center, a meditating human figure – sitting cross-legged, floating in the air – represents the fulcrum of the entire composition. Overlapping circles and circular patterns are arranged around the figure, like a mandala or an elaborate cosmic lattice that radiates light.

- Left half: Warmer and golden hues prevail, with mountainous landscapes and fluffy clouds. Celestial spheres, planets or cosmic bodies float in a sky with bright tones. Angelic figures or winged beings appear as messengers of a spiritual realm, in harmony with the landscape.

- Right half: The colors become colder and silverier, creating a sharp contrast with the left side. Here too you can see planets and celestial bodies, but immersed in a more ethereal and lunar atmosphere. Clouds seem to merge with mountain ranges, while angelic shapes or winged spirits cut through the air.

Above and around the central figure, circular motifs – similar to intricate sacred geometries – expand until they fade into the celestial landscape, evoking the idea of a macrocosm that envelops the human being. The overall effect is that of a dimension suspended between heaven and earth, in which opposites (light/shadow, warm/cold, left/right) converge towards a point of union.

Symbolic Analysis

1. Centrality of the Human Being in Meditation: The meditation position suggests an inner path that transcends duality. The individual acts as a "bridge" between the two halves, inviting us to overcome external and internal separations.

2. Mandalas or Cosmic-Spiritual Networks: The spheres and circles surrounding the figure indicate the cosmic unity, the connection between the microcosm (the individual) and the macrocosm (the universe). These geometric patterns can allude to the divine "seal" or the idea of a sacred "center" that unites everything.

3. Duality and Integration: The division into two halves recalls the dialectic between selection and universality, between light and shadow, between particularity and totality. However, the central figure and the geometries that envelop it show how these opposites can be harmonized in a broader and more inclusive vision.

4. Celestial and Angelic Elements: The planets and winged presences evoke the transcendent dimension, suggesting a context that goes beyond the simple terrestrial scenario. It is a universe in which the human and the divine meet.

Commentary and Connection with Revelation 7

In the text of Revelation 7 the dialectic between the 144,000 "marked" (often interpreted as a selected group) and the "great crowd" (image of universality) emerges. The image proposed here visually translates this tension: the division between "two halves" is not an insurmountable wall, but an invitation to grasp the unity that transcends all separation.

- Selection and Universality: As in the biblical text, where the 144,000 do not exclude the great crowd, here too duality is not an end in itself, but a passage towards an integral vision.

- Path of Awakening: The meditator at the center embodies the path of inner transformation: negative theology indicates to us that the Mystery cannot be enclosed in fixed categories. In the same way, the figure in contemplation symbolizes the abandonment of any limiting definition, to welcome cosmic unity.

- Non-Duality and Inclusion: The fusion of the two parts of the painting, through the circular motifs and the central light, illustrates the transition from a dualistic to a non-dual vision. It is the transition from fragmentation (selection vs. universality) to a perspective in which every distinction is recomposed into a single reality.

- Common Path to the Light: Just as Revelation 7 calls for a radical transformation that embraces all of humanity, the image suggests that individual awakening (represented by the central figure) is intimately linked to collective progress (the multitudes of spheres, angels, and cosmic symbols that fill the scene).

Ultimately, the image reflects the concluding message of the fourth section of the essay: the dialectic between selection and universality is not a mere game of opposites, but a creative tension that leads to a deeper understanding of the divine Mystery. The path of awakening does not isolate the individual from the collective, but on the contrary enriches it, leading to a higher harmony that embraces every aspect of existence.

Conclusion

Revelation 7 as a spiritual map between separation, purification and reunification.

Revelation 7 reveals itself as a vision of hope and encouragement, capable of illuminating the spiritual path in the midst of tribulations. The 144,000 sealed and the great crowd are not mere emblematic figures, but represent the people of God, protected and saved by his grace, in an invitation to recognize the transformative power that resides in every experience of suffering. Through the lens of the doctrine of Revival, negative theology, and power and progress, this chapter offers us a spiritual map that traces a path from separation to purification to reunification.

The image represents a symbolic and spiritual vision inspired by chapter 7 of the Apocalypse, interpreted as a "spiritual map" that guides through three main phases: separation, purification and reunification. This visual representation is rich in details that reflect theological and mystical themes, connecting to concepts of hope, transformation, and spiritual progress.

Image description

- Central structure: In the center is a circle with an atom-like pattern or cosmic structure, suggesting the idea of unity and universal connection. This central element could represent God or the divine principle that underpins the spiritual path.

- Division into quadrants: The image is divided into four sections, each of which likely represents a stage or dimension of the spiritual journey. The labels "Separation", "Purification" and "Reunification" are clearly visible, indicating the main milestones.

- Natural elements: Landscapes include ethereal skies, waters, lands, and cities, symbolizing different states of being or levels of awareness. Moving waters could represent purification, while luminous cities indicate reunification with the divine.

- Light/shadow contrast: The right side looks brighter (reunification), while the left side appears darker (separation), emphasizing the shift from darkness to light.

Symbolic analysis

1. Separation:

- It represents the initial state of the human soul, far from the divine source. It is a time of spiritual bewilderment or alienation.

- Harsh and isolated landscapes could symbolize the condition of inner and outer division.

2. Purification:

- This stage is characterized by transformation and redemptive suffering. Waters and dynamic flows indicate a process of renewal.

- It is the point at which the individual faces his or her tribulations in order to get closer to divine truth.

3. Reunification:

- The growing light and harmonious landscapes symbolize reunion with God and eternal peace.

- This stage represents the ultimate hope of humanity: to be received into divine grace.

The image connects to the message of Revelation 7, which speaks of the 144,000 sealed and the great crowd as symbols of God's protected people. Through the lens of the doctrine of Revival and negative theology, the work invites us to see in suffering not only an obstacle, but a transformative force capable of leading to salvation.

The progression from separation to reunification also reflects the individual path to spiritual enlightenment. It is an invitation to recognize how every painful experience can be transmuted into inner growth through divine grace.

In summary, this image is not only an artistic representation but also a powerful meditative tool for those seeking to understand the profound meaning of human tribulations in the context of the Christian faith.

The vision of Revelation 7 connects to the doctrine of Revival by offering a perspective on inner transformation and spiritual growth through tribulations:

Cleansing through suffering: Revelation 7 describes a great crowd who "washed their garments and made them white with the blood of the Lamb" after passing through the great tribulation. This can be interpreted as a process of spiritual purification, in which difficulties and sufferings are transformed into inner growth and awareness. The doctrine of Awakening emphasizes that facing challenges with mindfulness and acceptance can lead to profound personal transformation.

Divine Protection and Perseverance: The 144,000 sealed represent God's protected people during tribulations. This symbolizes the inner strength and resilience that is developed through faith and

perseverance on the spiritual path. The doctrine of Revival encourages finding the strength within oneself to overcome obstacles and stay true to one's path.

Unity and reunification: The vision culminates with the great crowd standing before the throne of God, united in praise and thanksgiving. This represents the reunification with the divine and the inner harmony that is achieved through spiritual awakening. The doctrine of Awakening aims to overcome the separation from the ego and to recognize the interconnectedness of all beings.

Revelation and transformation: The term "apocalypse" means "revelation." In this context, the vision of Revelation 7 reveals the potential for spiritual transformation that resides in every experience of suffering. The doctrine of Awakening focuses on discovering the truth within and transforming one's life through awareness and understanding.

Consolation and warning: The Apocalypse offers consolation and warning, suggesting that divine judgment is suspended to give individuals a chance to redeem themselves. This aligns with the doctrine of Revival, which emphasizes the importance of self-examination and correction of one's behavior in achieving spiritual growth.

Revelation 7, when interpreted through the lens of the doctrine of Revival, offers a spiritual map that guides through suffering toward purification and oneness with the divine.

Negative theology, which focuses on what God is not rather than what he is, can affect our understanding of Revelation 7 in several ways:

Divine transcendence: Negative theology emphasizes the unknowability and unfathomability of God. Applied to Revelation, this means recognizing that the images and symbols used to describe God and heavenly events are limited and imperfect. One should not take every detail literally, but rather seek the deeper meaning beyond concrete representations.

Overcoming definitions: Negative theology invites us to overcome limited definitions of God. In Revelation 7, the sealed 144,000 and the great crowd are symbols of divine salvation and protection. Negative theology suggests that these numbers and images should not be interpreted literally, but as representations of the totality of God's people, transcending any specific category or definition.

Mystery and paradox: Negative theology embraces mystery and paradox. Revelation 7 presents contrasting images of destruction and salvation. Negative theology helps to understand that these seemingly contradictory elements can coexist in the apocalyptic vision, reflecting the complexity of the divine plan and the difficulty of fully understanding it with the human mind.

Focus on experience: Negative theology, while focusing on the unknowability of God, can paradoxically lead to a greater emphasis on spiritual experience. Faced with the impossibility of defining God, the focus shifts to the search for a personal and transformative relationship with the divine. In Revelation 7, this translates into an invitation to live the faith authentically and to witness to the hope of salvation, even in the midst of tribulations.

Purification of understanding: Negative theology, by denying what is improper and inadequate in the statement, arrives at a purer understanding of God. In Revelation 7, this means stripping the narrative of literal or materialistic interpretations, and instead grasping the deeper spiritual meanings related to redemption, hope, and the promise of a transcendent future.

In summary, negative theology, applied to Revelation 7, promotes a humble and open approach to the divine mystery, encouraging us to seek spiritual meaning beyond images and symbols, and to live the faith with authenticity and hope.

Revelation 7 offers hope and encouragement on the spiritual path through several key elements:

Divine Protection During Tribulations: The vision of the sealed 144,000 symbolizes God's protection for his chosen people during times of trial. This offers comfort to believers, assuring them that they are not alone in their suffering and that God watches over them.

Promise of Salvation and Redemption: The great crowd that no one could number, from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, points to the salvation offered to all who believe. This universal vision of salvation encourages believers to persevere in faith, knowing that redemption is possible for all.

Final victory over evil and suffering: The Apocalypse, while containing warnings and images of judgment, assures believers of Christ's final victory over evil. The promise that God will wipe away every tear from their eyes and that there will be no more death, no more mourning, no more lament, no more sorrow offers tangible hope for a future of eternal joy and peace.

Communion with God: The vision of the New Jerusalem describes an intimate communion between God and humanity. The promise: "Behold, the dwelling place of God with men! He shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and shall be their God" (Revelation 21:3) offers consolation and strengthens the desire for connection and belonging to God.

Reward for faithfulness: Revelation assures believers that their faithfulness and suffering are not neglected by God. The prayers of the saints are represented as incense ascending before the throne of God, and those who have been martyred for their faith are honored and comforted. This encourages believers to remain steadfast in the faith, knowing that their devotion will be recognized and rewarded.

Hope as the certainty of faith: The message of hope of the Apocalypse is the basis of a healthy optimism of believers. They know that the clash with the powers of evil and the risk of idolatrous seduction are present and active realities until the end of history, but they have the certainty of faith that their lives are firmly in God's hands.

In summary, Revelation 7, along with the rest of the book of Revelation, offers a vision of hope rooted in divine protection, the promise of salvation, the ultimate victory over evil, and eternal communion with God, encouraging believers to persevere on their spiritual path with faith and confidence.

Reconciling the elite and the multitude: the integration of the two paths.

In reconciling the apparent division between elite and multitude, Revelation 7 teaches us that election is not an end in itself, but the starting point for a path that culminates in universal transfiguration. The distinction between the 144,000 and the great crowd thus becomes an invitation to the integration of the two paths: that of selection, which calls us to an individual commitment to inner awakening, and that of universality, which embraces the whole of humanity in a message of collective redemption.

The image is divided into two main halves, which converge towards an illuminated central point, where a solitary figure stands out in a dominant position.

Image description

Top:

- Left: angelic figures and symbols of modern cities, representing an urban and spiritual context.

- Right: angels with trumpets and other apocalyptic symbols, evoking divine judgment and revelation.

- Center: A central figure, likely a symbol of Christ or a spiritual guide, walks along a glowing path that divides the two factions.

Underside:

- Left: a multitude of people, symbolizing the "great crowd" described in Revelation 7. They are depicted as a compact group, without particular individual distinctions.

- Right: knights on horses, recalling the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse or other figures of power and conflict.

- In the center: a river that separates the two parts, perhaps a symbol of passage or purification.

Symbolic analysis

The image seems to represent the theme of reconciliation between the elite and the multitude, as suggested by the text of Revelation 7. The distinction between the "144,000" (a select group) and the "great crowd" (the whole of humanity) is here visually translated through the contrast between the individualized figures on the right (elite) and the uniform mass on the left (multitude). However, both parts converge towards the center, where the luminous figure is located.

The Luminous Path: Symbolizes the integration of the two paths — the individual (selection) and the collective (universality).

The river: It could represent a barrier to be overcome to achieve unity or a purification process necessary for universal transfiguration.

The central figure: It is the meeting point between the divine and the human, between judgment and redemption.

The image visually reflects the theological concept of Revelation 7: election is not exclusive but inclusive, a starting point for a path that culminates in universal redemption. The opposition between the elite and the multitude is not definitive but invites a higher synthesis. This message is particularly relevant in a contemporary context marked by social and spiritual divisions. The work suggests that only through the integration of differences can a true collective transfiguration be achieved.

In summary, the image offers a powerful starting point to reflect on the importance of unity in diversity and on the role of the individual path in the context of universal salvation.

The image of "Reconciling Elite and Multitude" can be interpreted symbolically through several key elements that reflect themes of integration, unity and transformation.

Duality and Integration

- Elite vs. Multitude: The distinction between elite and multitude represents two aspects of society. The elite can symbolize knowledge, power, and selection, while the multitude represents diversity and collectivity. Reconciliation between the two implies an integration of their qualities, suggesting that both parties have a crucial role in the process of growth and social transformation.

The Luminous Path

- Symbol of Guidance: A luminous path connecting the two parts can symbolize the path of truth, awareness, and redemption. It indicates that there is a common path that allows us to overcome divisions, inviting an inner awakening and greater mutual understanding.

The central figure

- Representation of the Divine: A central figure, often seen as a spiritual guide or divine manifestation, symbolizes the meeting point between the human and the divine. This figure can represent the ideal of unity and harmony, urging us to transcend differences to achieve a common goal.

The River

- Purification and Transition: A river separating the two factions can symbolize the purification process necessary for reconciliation. It represents the transition from a state of conflict to one of unity, suggesting that it is necessary to face one's inner divisions in order to achieve true integration.

Symbolism of the Transfiguration

- Collective Evolution: The idea of universal transfiguration implies a profound and positive change. Symbolically, this process is seen as a transformation of individual consciousnesses into a new collective reality, where harmony between elite and multitude is essential for a better future.

Message of Redemption

- Inclusivity: Reconciliation suggests a message of collective redemption, emphasizing that each individual has intrinsic value in the grand scheme of humanity. This implies that the well-being of the whole society depends on the ability to embrace all its components.

In summary, the image of "Reconciling the elite and the multitude" offers a rich symbolism that invites reflection on the importance of integration between different social and spiritual realities, promoting a message of unity, personal growth and collective transformation.

The role of tribulation as a necessary experience for transformation.

Tribulation, far from being just a period of suffering, reveals itself as the necessary experience for transformation. It is through the fire of difficulties that old identities disintegrate, allowing the emergence of a new reality, where inner power replaces worldly and hierarchical power, opening the way to authentic progress. The purification brought about by pain thus becomes the means through which dualism is overcome, making room for a synthesis that unites individual election and universal transfiguration.

The image is a visual representation of the concept of spiritual transformation through tribulation.

In the center of the image there is a wooden path that extends deep, surrounded by a forest shrouded in fog. Several human figures walk along this path, their dark silhouettes silhouetted against an intense light coming from above, creating a dramatic backlit effect. This light penetrates through the foliage of the trees, creating beams of light that almost seem to touch the path.

The symbolism of the image is particularly rich and layered:

The wooden path represents the path of life and spiritual transformation. Its raised structure suggests the idea of elevation from the material world, while its rectilinear nature indicates a clear direction towards divine light.

The human figures, represented as dark silhouettes, symbolize humanity in its spiritual pilgrimage. Their progression along the path illustrates the concept of shared walking, while each maintaining its own individuality. Some figures seem to proceed alone, others in small groups, suggesting that the path of transformation can be both individual and collective.

The intense light that penetrates from above evokes the divine presence and the grace that illuminates the path. Its interaction with the fog creates a mystical atmosphere that suggests the transcendent nature of the spiritual experience.

The presence of butterflies is particularly significant, as these insects are universally recognized as symbols of transformation and rebirth. Their presence reinforces the image's central message about the transformative nature of tribulation.

The surrounding forest, with its tall trees and fog, can be interpreted as a representation of the trials and difficulties that accompany the spiritual path. However, it is through this same forest that the divine light filters through, suggesting how difficulties themselves can become instruments of enlightenment.

The entire composition recalls the passage from Revelation 7, which speaks of the "great tribulation" through which the faithful must pass. In the image, this concept is visually rendered through the contrast between the darkness of the forest and the divine light, between the solidity of the path and the ephemeral nature of the fog.

The perspective of the image, which opens towards a point of luminous vanishing, suggests hope and promise of transformation. This visual arrangement communicates that, despite the difficulties of the path, there is a higher direction and purpose that guides the path of spiritual transformation.

The general atmosphere of the image, while representing a path of tribulation, is not gloomy or threatening, but rather pervaded by a serene solemnity. This suggests that tribulation, while a probationary experience, is fundamentally a process of spiritual purification and elevation.

The image thus manages to visually capture the essence of the spiritual message: tribulation is not an end in itself, but is the means through which a profound transformation takes place, both individual and collective, guided by the divine light towards a higher reality.

Overcoming dualism through revival and apophatic theology.

In summary, Revelation 7 guides us on a journey that goes from the paradigm of election to that of universal reunification, overcoming the rigidities of dualism through revival and apophatic theology. The message of this chapter is configured as a key to understanding humanity, an invitation to move from oppression to authentic liberation, in which every tribulation becomes a fundamental stage towards the light and unity of the divine.

The image is a representation that illustrates the concept of overcoming dualism through a symmetrical but unifying composition.

The composition is divided into two mirrored halves that unify in the center, where two luminous figures meet in a golden aura. This compositional structure serves to illustrate different levels of meaning:

At the top of the image, we see the two central figures meeting in a manifestation of divine light, surrounded by a golden branching pattern reminiscent of both the branches of the tree of life and the rays of celestial light. This meeting point represents the transcendence of dualism through mystical union.

The landscape below is divided into two parts:

- On the left side we see a colder mountainous landscape, with blue and gray tones, where figures with halos in dark clothes sit

- On the right side we find a warmer landscape, with reddish and brown tones, where other haloed figures in light clothes sit

In the middle of the two halves runs a waterfall that, instead of further dividing the scene, serves as a unifying element that connects the two dimensions. The flowing water symbolically represents the flow of divine grace that allows the overcoming of apparent separation.

The image communicates several levels of theological and spiritual meaning:

The Transcendence of Dualism:

The entire composition illustrates how the apparent opposites (cold/warm, dark/light) are not really in conflict but part of a larger unity, visualized through the central golden light.

Apophatic theology:

The central brightness that almost dazzles suggests the ineffability of divine experience, a key concept of apophatic theology that holds that the divine transcends our conceptual categories.

The Collective Awakening:

The figures seated on either side, all with halos, suggest a community of awakened people participating in the vision of divine unity. Their symmetrical arrangement suggests a rediscovered harmony.

Universal Unification:

The structure of the image, which converges toward the luminous center, illustrates the movement toward unity that is at the heart of the message of Revelation 7. Apparent differences dissolve in the light of higher revelation.

The image uses several elements to reinforce this message:

The color contrast between the two halves initially serves to highlight the apparent duality, but is transcended by the central light

The symmetry of the composition suggests a higher cosmic order

The use of central golden light creates a focal point that unifies the entire composition

The haloed figures suggest a community of initiates who have attained a higher understanding

The image thus manages to visually communicate the central message of Revelation 7: the overcoming of apparent divisions through a deeper understanding of divine reality. The tribulation, represented by the contrast between the two halves, is transcended into the central luminous unity, illustrating how the spiritual path leads to a unified view of reality.

The image is a visual metaphor for the spiritual path described in the biblical text: from dualism to unity, from apparent separation to understanding the fundamental unity of all creation in divine light.